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Parks and Recreation

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2728 East 171st Street
Westfield, IN 46074
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To: Westfield Board of Works

From: Melody Jones

CC: Todd Burtron

Date: July 16, 2012

RE: Park Improvements as of July 2012

Dear Board Members:

The severe heat and lack of rain has created many obstacles for the Parks Maintenance Division. These three men are working in the toughest conditions and keeping up with watering trees the best they can. We added watering of the State Road 32 trees to the Brickman contract on monthly bases. Brickman is water only the trees on State Road 32, once a week dumping 20 gallons of water on each tree.

The drought is taking a toll on all landscaping and I fear we will lose many trees, shrubs and flowers throughout the park system.

PARKS

The Park Identification Signs are now installed. We have received great feedback on the look of the signs.

Armstrong

We have contracted with Margretta (Greta) Peterson, our former intern to continue with the concept plans for Armstrong Park. We had one meeting with the representative from the Lions Club regarding the plans. Greta will provide two new options for their consideration this week. We plan to meet with the Country Side HOA representative later this month.

Asa Bales

Irrigation has been set for Tuesday and Thursday's in accordance with the new watering restriction.

Katey Bonar, the Herron Art School student has finished her sculpture and it was installed at the east entrance to Asa Bales Park. We are planning a Meet the Artist Evening on Friday, July 27th at the Sculpture from 6 to 8PM. We hope you will all plan to attend.

We have delayed the installation of the new fence and retaining wall in the park to this fall. We are hoping for cooler temperatures.

Freedom Trail

We had some vandalism at the playground and will be ordering a new panel for the broken piece. Also, three trees were broken off. The Westfield Police Department is continuing to patrol the park when possible

Old Friends Cemetery

The quotes for the Interpretative Signs in Old Friends came in at \$4,156 for manufacturing the signs. CSI-Signs had the lowest quote. The signs are to be completed by August 31st. The park maintenance staff will do the install. This project is being paid with a \$10,000 grant from HCCVB.

We have two trees under warranty in the park that will be replaced by Becker Landscaping in the fall.

Osborne Park

We made it to the top 15 finalist in the national PetSafe Bark for Your Park competition. Three awards will be given out. We hope to receive a \$25,000 award for the most votes per capita.

The Bark Park designed for this location has been well received. A “Friends of the Westfield Bark Park” has formed and they will be seeking a 501C3 status. This group plans to host fund raising events in the parks.

Quaker

The Splash Park is being used daily. The water from the Splash Park drains to the pond. This water is used for irrigation at Quaker Park. We have set the irrigation to Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

Simon Moon

The Hill's landscaping is dying. We constructed a temporary irrigation system using the ponds water.

TRAILS

A request for quotes went out June 22nd for what we call wing gates. These gates will be located at the high risk road/trail intersections to remind trail users to stop and keep vehicles off the trails. We plan to include 20 gates in the initial installation. A contract request is part of today agenda.

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Cool Creek Trail

Requests for quotes went out on June 22nd for seven trail identification signs for the new section of Cool Creek Trail that runs along Cool Creek Park Road, Greyhound Pass; 147th Street and continues through Cool Creek Commons Shopping Center. Many residents are not aware that this new trail exists. The contract request is on today's agenda.

Monon Trail

We are still working on finalizing the contract with VS Engineering for the Monon Phase 3A. We hope to get this project moving soon.

Construction of the Monon Trail pedestrian bridge over 146th Street has started. Reith Riley Construction is the contractor for this Hamilton County project. The Monon will be closed during construction from the Greyhound Pass Trailhead to the Rohrer Road Trailhead. A detour has been provided on Greyhound Pass to Oak Ridge Road to Home Drive to Rohrer Road. Signage has been placed at the trail head. Information has been posted on the City website and Facebook page. November 15th is the expected completion date.

Midland Trace Trail

We received three of the four quit claim documents for parcels on the Midland Trace Trail east of Carey Road. The one remaining is Kroger. I talked with their representative and we should have the signed document by September 15th. As part of their zoning commitments they agreed to donate this railroad right of way to the City. Plans include paving from Carey Road east to Gunther this year when these parcels are deeded to the City.

Grand Junction Trail

The irrigation along the trail on South Union Street has been programmed to comply with the new watering restrictions.

OTHER ITEMS

Grand Junction

We have closed on two properties in Grand Junction. We have signed agreements with two more and are talking with 5 additional owners. We plan to close on two other by the end of the year.

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Engineering is finalizing the demolition RFP. We hope to have those out on the two properties we own soon.

The City continues work with BLA and Browning Day on the cost to finish the regional detention plans and the final design of Grand Junction Plaza.

Special Events or Programs

Westfield Rocks the 4th (WR4)

Boy was it hot on July 4th. The event was well attended once the park was shaded. The Westfield Police Department estimated around 7,500 people was in attendance for the fireworks.

Westfield in Bloom (WIB)

The four volunteer committees for WIB are very busy with this year's projects.

The Floral Committee: Judging for the floral completion took place on June 23rd. We had more participants than we did last year.

The Community Committee's signature project is Plant a Row is in full swing. They planted the Kids Garden at the Farmer's Market and are maintaining 2 acres of gardens at Christ United Methodist Church. Community donations can be made at the Parks/WIB booth at the Farmer's Market or at Ameriana Bank. To date we have about 400 pounds donated.

The Environmental Awareness Committee, This committee is promoting Adopt a Prairie at Freedom Trail Park. Their next scheduled work day is July 21st. They have prepared plant information and will work with the volunteers in maintaining the prairie throughout the year.

The Heritage Committee's main project this year is hosting "Voices from the Past". This will be our second year of offering this performance of some of Westfield's historical citizens. The performances take place in the Anti-Slavery Cemetery in Asa Bales Park and Old Friends Cemetery Park. We partner with the Westfield Historical Society and Westfield Players. This year we are host on two days. The performances on Friday, September 14th during the day will be a school field trips, Friday evening performance will be discounted, for families. There will be Saturday performances. This is a ticketed event. A flyer is attached for your information.

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